

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01757 280817Z

10

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05

CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2280

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON NEW EDUCATION MINISTER

REF: LISBON 1715

1. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH OF NEW EDUCATION MINISTER IN JUST-
APPOINTED FOURTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS:

2. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE ARMY MAJOR
JOSE EMILIO DA SILVA WAS BORN ON JUNE 14, 1940. STUDIED AT
MILITARY ACADEMY FROM 1959-1966, RECEIVING DEGREE THAT YEAR
IN CIVIL ENGINEERING. NAMED TO ANGOLA JUNTA AT TIME IT WAS
ESTABLISHED (JULY 1974). STAYING ON IT UNTIL ITS DISSOLUTION
IN NOVEMBER. MARCH 22 EDITION OF EXPRESSO REPORTS THAT HE
WAS PART OF ROSA COUTINHO'S TEAM IN ANGOLA.

3. MAJ DA SILVA WAS ORIGINALLY SLATED TO FORM PART OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, HAVING BEEN PROPOSED FOR THE POSITION IN
THE FIRST AFM MEETING (MARCH 11) AFTER THE ABORTIVE COUP
ATTEMPT BY RIGHT WING MILITARY OFFICERS. HOWEVER, THIS APPOINTMENT
DID NOT TAKE PLACE. MAJ EANES (NATIONAL TELEVISION-RTP HEAD)
WHOSE BROTHER ALLEGEDLY FLEW ONE OF THE T-6S ON BEHALF OF THE COUP
FORCES, QUIT RTP AND MAJ. DA SILVA GOT THE JOB MARCH 18, THEREBY
LOSING HIS REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SEAT.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01757 280817Z

4. COMMENT: HIS APPOINTMENT TO TROUBLED EDUCATION MINISTRY

PROBABLY DUE SOLELY TO THE CONFIDENCE THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
HAS IN HIM. HE APPARENTLY HAS NO EXPERIENCE AS AN EDUCATOR.
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